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FLOOR DEBATE

February 3, 2003 LB 72

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Any discussion on this amendment? I see none. Senator Beutler, do you wish to close? He waives closing. The question then is the adoption of AM0179. All in favor please vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: The amendment is adopted. Next item on the bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Thompson would move to amend with AM0200. (Legislative Journal page 404.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Thompson to open on AM0200.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This amendment comes largely because as a member of the Appropriations Committee for the past couple of years, we have struggled to put General Fund money into the State Fair. I'll be quite honest and say that when I came to the Legislature, I had no idea we put General Fund money into the prize money at the State Fair. And I also had no idea people got more than a ribbon. I didn't realize they also received payment for the prizes that they received at the State Fair. My understanding of this is, it started off as paying for some of the 4-H prizes. But it's also been moved to general class also, when the State Fair was running into financial problems. I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein a question, just to...so that the body is aware what's happened in the last couple of years with the funding for the fair. Senator Wehrbein?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Last year, we struggled with this because of the state budget crisis, and whether or not we could continue to afford to subsidize the prize money at the State Fair. And a